

## **CA's 2008-2010 303(d) List**

- California reviewed over 22,000 data sets and produced a 303(d) list that identifies 1,000 water bodies and over 2,800 water body pollutant combinations requiring a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). Compared to their last 303(d) list approved in 2007, this represents an increase of 10% of lake acres and decrease of 4% of river miles still requiring a TMDL. Over the last ten years the number of water bodies and associated impairments requiring a TMDL has dramatically increased in California, however, this signals great improvements to the State's monitoring and assessment program rather than an overall decrease in water quality. In most part, the new impairments arise from the state collecting data on previously unassessed water bodies and also conducting a more thorough assessment of existing data. As the State refines their assessment process many inappropriately listed water bodies have been removed.
- California's waters are most often impaired by pesticides, pathogens, metals and nutrients. California has a higher proportion of pesticide impairments compared to national trends. However, California's Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) is comprehensive and assesses a more complete array of pollutants, such as pesticides, than many other states' monitoring programs.
- EPA encourages California to promptly develop and implement TMDLs to address these impairments. In particular, EPA encourages the State to address common impairments on a statewide basis to ensure efficient use of agency resources and equitable distribution of required reductions.
- EPA conducted a thorough review of the large dataset California utilized for their assessment and compared it to a complex set of water quality standards. As a result of this review, EPA has added several waterbodies to California's 303(d) list for bacteria, metals, temperature and salinity. These pollutants are impairing recreational, aquatic life, agricultural and municipal uses. Particular concern was expressed by the public for protecting salmon from excessively high temperatures in the San Joaquin River and its tributaries.